

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 639

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Dwight Montgomery of Memphis.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Reverend Dwight Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Montgomery was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on April 8, 1950, to Elizabeth and Howard Montgomery, Reverend Dwight Montgomery was reared in Memphis and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Montgomery attended Lane College in Jackson and became a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in 1969; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Lane College in 1972, Reverend Dwight Montgomery committed himself to public service and formed the Coalition of Benevolent Youth in 1974; in addition, he was a board member of the Memphis Housing Authority, serving in a volunteer capacity for nine years and as chair of the board for two of those years; and

WHEREAS, answering the call to preach the Gospel, Reverend Montgomery was ordained by Reverend Eugene Waller on December 7, 1975, and he served as the pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church for seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Reverend Dwight Montgomery was elected pastor of Annesdale Cherokee Missionary Baptist Church in South Memphis. Under Reverend Montgomery's astute leadership, Annesdale Cherokee Missionary Baptist Church and its congregation flourished for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, active in civil and human rights for more than fifty years, Reverend Montgomery was the chair of the Education Committee for the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, and he served on the boards of the National Civil Rights Museum, the Tennessee Justice Center, and Operation Safe Community; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he was president of the Memphis Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapter from 2004 until his passing and focused on minimizing negative gang activity, supporting quality education and educational choice, inspiring students with mentors and tutors in public schools, assisting local workers in labor disputes, and speaking out for those without health care; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dwight Montgomery was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Montgomery leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Reverend Dwight Montgomery, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Reverend Montgomery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.